

The Fire.

About half past two o'clock on Thursday morning last, the fire alarm was sounded, and our citizens were aroused from their slumbers, to witness the first efforts of our new city water works, in suppressing a fire. The fire was in the frame buildings on the alley in the rear of Kerr & Co's Grocery, and Thomas & Elliott's Furniture Store, and had gained considerable headway when discovered. Wolfram's Clothing Store was also on fire, but this had not gained such headway and was quickly suppressed with buckets of water, by some of those who arrived first. By the time the hose were turned on the fire, the roof of one building had fallen in and the flames were spreading rapidly. There were lumber piles, and frame buildings adjoining, and everything seemed to foreshadow the largest fire in the place for years, but in less than ten minutes from the time of throwing the first water, it was entirely extinguished. The fire seemed like a pigmy contending with a giant. At first some predicted that the whole, or greater portion of the square would be consumed, which would doubtless have been the case, had it not been for the new city water works. They saved on this occasion, at the least calculation, ten thousand dollars worth of property from destruction, that could not have been saved with the engines formerly in use. Thus property equal in value to about one third of the structure of the water works, is saved in the first few months of their operation.

The fire originated in Mr. Kerr's wood house, and was doubtless the work of an incendiary, as there had been no fire very close to the building for several weeks and just before the alarm was given, Mr. Wolfram's Store was robbed of \$100 in clothing. Mr. Kerr's loss was about \$200, and Thomas and Elliott's loss about \$300—no insurance.
